



# 9<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLÉE MONDIALE À DAKAR, feb2011

## Pouvoir Local et Crise Globale

Commitment of DAKAR  
8<sup>th</sup> of February 2011

### **Final Declaration of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Assembly of the FAL Network in Dakar**

The holding of this 9<sup>th</sup> World Assembly of the FAL Network, within the framework of the World Social Forum, shows the strength of the FAL network of cities and its enlargement to the African local authorities gathered in Dakar.

We appreciate the warm reception of the African local authorities during all these days of work in Pikine and Dakar; and we are also very grateful to the African people for the warm welcome extended to the FAL local authorities and to all the institutions collaborating in the organisation and supporting this World Assembly.

The elected representatives of the FAL celebrate that the peoples of Africa and the Maghreb are taking their fate in their own hands. Their willingness to change and their struggle in favour of democracy and citizens' rights must be considered. In this sense, we also support all the peoples fighting for the reappropriation of their natural resources and struggling against their privatization.

The elected representatives gathered in Dakar stand in solidarity with all the peoples involved in these protesting movements. These are formed by young people, women and men with thirst for freedom, but above all for dignity and equal rights: freedom of speech, the right to work, health, social protection, housing, education, basic public goods, etc.

This 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the FAL, untitled "Local power and global crisis" is framed within an economic, regulatory and political context that is extremely complicated for the local authorities of many countries. Besides, we admit that in other countries, some of them in Latin America, local governments are extending local power and conquering autonomy. They must face unprecedented economic, social and environmental challenges and their means are not always adequate.

We must face together this moment of history, which is both complex and uncertain. We know that the periods of crisis increase uncertainties and multiply questions, but they can also mean a good opportunity for innovation and changes.

In this context, the city, the metropolis and the municipality are more and more becoming spaces for building alternatives and innovation. The strength of the FAL network is based on its local experiences, daily projects and a work of network of networks including cities, local and regional authorities of all sizes and from every continent, both peripheral and central, all of them motivated by the aim of thinking and building together "Another possible world".

We emphasize the capacity of the FAL for creating new networks and pulling together around the main issues such as equality between men and women and the right to water.

Thanks to the decentralised cooperation links being developed, local authorities are also contributing to the creation of a more solidarity-based world and the promotion of peace. The FAL Network and Mayors for Peace reaffirm their determination to continue working together for liberating cities from the scourge



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of war and mass destruction. Our duty is to keep the pressure on national governments and influence the international agendas.

Furthermore, we are convinced that international aid, mainly the one aimed at reconstruction processes, must place among its priorities the reinforcement of the authorities of the country (specially local ones) and of the capacity of the civil society for re-appropriating those processes of international cooperation. Besides, we support the strengthening of SOUTH-SOUTH cooperation processes and insist on the need of non-governmental, bilateral and multilateral cooperation programs.

The holding of this FAL Assembly, within the Framework of the WSF, in Africa, seems to us specially important for the FAL Network, since it admits the particularly important role this continent has to play in terms of mobilisation:

A mobilisation against neoliberal globalisation, as it has revealed its limits and failures; a mobilisation against the exploitation of the natural resources of this continent.

A mobilisation for achieving that the African youth, together with elected representatives, could put into practice this will of social transformation and real democracy.

A mobilisation in favour of the most basic rights of peoples: the right to water, basic public services, work and social security.

A mobilisation for putting equality between men and women, the access of women to all levels of decision-taking and the emancipation of everyone, that is to say, the struggle against any kind of discrimination, at the centre of the project of alternative society that must be promoted by local authorities, social movements and citizens.

A mobilisation in favour of a geopolitical reorganisation of the world where all the nations contribute to the creation of a more sustainable and solidarity-based development.

We must reinforce our capacity of being critical and promoting social transformation from progressive local authorities. This is a collective responsibility: to join forces for building the future of our cities on the grounds of cohesion and not from social and political exclusion.

We reaffirm our close relation with social movements. All over the world, associations, popular movements and citizen organisation are fighting against the cruellest forms of exclusion. They ensure the social link and reinforce mobilisations in favour of "Another possible world".

At this moment, the strategic alliance with social movements is specially important for the construction of cross-cutting and comprehensive public policies in favour of social inclusion. For doing so, we are equipped with a tool, the "World Charter Agenda for Human Rights in the City", adopted during the last World Congress of UCLG-CISDP.

The local elected representatives gathered in Dakar will address the challenge of extending citizen participation within the framework of local projects, both proximity and major projects, included metropolitan projects also.



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We declare that it is impossible to achieve human emancipation without a determined fight against violence against women. This requires a strong political will from local authorities.

Local authorities must bear in mind and act as an amplifier of the aspirations and the capacity of social transformation of every citizen. We commit to transfer the voice of social movements to UCLG.

We are aware of the key role of local elected representatives, together with social movements, for articulating alternatives at all levels, specially considering that we are facing an exhausted and adrift economic and financial system. In a collective way, elected representatives and local authorities must challenge this “poisoned” model of development.

Globalisation, which is based mainly in financial hegemony, even more than economic, is unequal and asymmetric: on the one hand, we are witnessing the emergence of new areas of prosperity, of new medium classes in India, Brazil or China; and on the other hand, we observe that new areas of misery are emerging, with a higher proportion of population going from a situation of poverty to a situation of misery. Nobody is safe from this downward movement in social class and in a high number of developed countries, the State has ceased to acknowledge its main responsibility of ensuring that the disadvantaged do not get into a situation of misery and abandon.

We have the responsibility of promoting a new form of economy, more cooperative, alternative, social and solidarity-based in which everyone could participate and in which profit is not the only law. We want social and environmental utility to prevail over economic performance, the economy of contribution should be paramount

We must promote a balanced development, based on the economy of natural resources and the protection of the environment. Sustainable development must not only contribute to reduce human environmental footprint, but also to consider the population which is more exposed to ecological disorders caused by humans: climate refugees, disadvantaged populations, citizens of the outskirts or unhealthy areas.

We claim the right to the city for everyone, for achieving that every citizen feels involved. The considering of the Other and the respect of differences are essential. We must ensure that everyone feels at home and promote a better cohabitation. Migrants must be at the centre of this process, and we must fight against policies of criminalisation and exclusion of migrant populations.

We suggest the idea of another model of metropolis, another model of development, another model of growth. A polycentric metropolis where everyone belongs to an environment that counts. Apart from the right to the city, we must claim the right to centrality for all.

Together, local authorities and social movements must build different alternatives, where everyone counts and is able to find his/her place in the future. This is the main challenge we are facing. Those possibilities must be built from a dialog of convergence with social movements and the political agendas, not only at a global level, but also in every territory, municipality and district.

This 9<sup>th</sup> World Assembly of the FAL Network would like to thank all the delegations that participated at this forum, witnessing the vitality of local governments when acting globally for the construction of another possible, necessary and urgent world.



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We commit to continue working according to the following agenda:

1<sup>st</sup> World Forum of Local Development Agencies, Seville, October 2011.

Metropolitan Social Forum, Porto Alegre, January 2012.

World Water Forum, Marseille, 2012.

Rio+20, Rio de Janeiro, May 2012

Africités, Dakar, December 2012

10<sup>th</sup> World Assembly of the FAL Network, within the WSF 2012 (the international council of the WSF will decide what is the place chosen during the first semester of 2012)